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Letter dated 17 February 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus, as the country which holds the chairmanship of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, has the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the threat of narcotic drugs emanating from Afghanistan. The document has been signed by the Presidents of Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of this letter and the attached statement could be circulated as documents of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under agenda item 38.

(*Signed*) Zoya **Kolontai**

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Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the threat of narcotic drugs emanating from Afghanistan

We, the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization,

Deeply convinced that illicit drug trafficking continues to be one of the greatest threats facing humanity in the twenty-first century, not only undermining people's health and well-being, but also threatening the socio-economic and political stability of individual States and the international community;

Considering that the spread of narcotic drugs from Afghanistan has attained levels that constitute a threat to peace and international security;

Recognizing that this issue cannot be considered separately from international terrorism, extremism and transnational crime and that it requires a common approach, as recognized by United Nations Member States in the Political Declaration of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly;

Considering that the priorities in combating the drug trade in Afghanistan are the full involvement of Afghanistan in combating narcotic drug production within its territory and timely cooperation on the situation in Afghanistan between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Commending the increasing contribution made by the International Security Assistance Force towards combating the threat posed by Afghan narcotic drugs;

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in promoting international cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking;

Recalling Security Council resolution 1917 (2010), the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan (A/64/872-S/2010/318) dated 16 June 2010 and the statement by the President of the Security Council (SC/9992) dated 23 July 2010;

Attaching great importance to the efforts of the international community and international and regional organizations to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs produced in Afghanistan;

Noting that the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization support the aspiration and determination of United Nations Member States to overcome the world drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies to eliminate the production and distribution of narcotic drugs, and that they are open to cooperation with the United Nations and all interested international and regional organizations engaged in combating the narcotic drug threat.

Hereby call upon:

The Security Council to consider characterizing narcotic drug production in Afghanistan as a threat to international peace and security;

The Security Council to consider expanding the authority of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan by more consistently integrating a rule of law component, including in the light of experience gained in the field by United Nations missions in various countries;

The United Nations to conduct regular assessments of the effectiveness of narcotic drug control assistance provided to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries based on proportionate and verifiable national counter-narcotic activity indicators, and to step up assistance to Afghanistan, including to the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, in order to draw more attention to cooperation on matters related to implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy adopted by the Government of Afghanistan in 2003;

The United Nations to expand the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in coordinating efforts by the Afghan authorities and other institutions to carry out counter-narcotics strategies at the provincial and national levels, as well as plans of action to eliminate drug crops and drug trade infrastructure in Afghanistan;

Interested States and international organizations to comply strictly with Security Council resolution 1817 (2008) and to improve monitoring of the trade in precursors in order to prevent them from being smuggled into Afghanistan;

The Government of Afghanistan, its development partners and all members of the international community to implement the Afghanistan Compact, adopted at the London Conference on Afghanistan held on 31 January and 1 February 2006 and approved by the Security Council on 15 February 2006, which provides for a sustained and significant reduction in the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs with a view to their complete elimination and which considers counter-narcotics to be a priority.

For the Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*) Serzh **Sargsyan**

For the Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*) Alyaksandr **Lukashenka**

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*) Nursultan **Nazarbayev**

For the Kyrgyz Republic
(*Signed*) Roza **Otunbaeva**

For the Russian Federation
(*Signed*) Dmitry **Medvedev**

For the Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*) Emomali **Rahmon**